



**Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
The Universal Periodic Review of Czech Republic
14th Session**

Madam President,

Sri Lanka warmly welcomes the high level delegation of the Czech Republic, and commends the comprehensive statement, which provided an overview of the challenges faced and progress made since its first UPR.

Sri Lanka welcomes in particular the efforts undertaken by the Czech Government in the protection of the rights of children, including the National Strategy adopted this year; and the awareness-building campaigns aimed at combating violence against children.

Sri Lanka believes that no child or individual should be deprived of education and further development. In this regard, my delegation welcomes the progress made in the education sector, including the early intervention services for socially disadvantaged pre-school children and their families, the Inclusive Education Support Centre, and the National Plan of Action for Inclusive Education.

Sri Lanka also welcomes efforts aimed at combating human trafficking such as the National Strategy which includes the new policies planned for the 2012-2015 timeframe, awareness raising campaigns, and the policy document of 2011 on trafficking in children. Sri Lanka believes that these efforts need to be regularly and strategically intensified.

Madam President,

Sri Lanka is of the view that the principles of equality and social cohesion must take the forefront in all endeavours by the Czech Republic to safeguard the rights of its people.

Sri Lanka, in this regard, would like to make the following recommendations:

- Undertake appropriate measures in the education sphere to further focus on the effective integration and development of disadvantaged children;
- Take appropriate measures to ensure that hate crime and violence, and racist and xenophobic acts are investigated, and that perpetrators are prosecuted.
- Take appropriate action to ensure the protection of migrant workers;

Madam President, we wish the Czech Republic success in its UPR engagement in the second cycle.

Thank you